

I claim:

sub a1
1. A dual leading-shoe brake system comprising a backing plate, first and second actuating levers and first and second brake shoes, each brake shoe engaging a respective one of said actuating levers such that said actuating levers urge said brake shoes radially outward during braking operation, a first anchor fixed to said backing plate and engaging lower ends of said actuating levers and adapted to engage a lower end of a said brake shoe during braking, an upper anchor adapted to engage an upper end of said a brake shoe during braking, and an activating element engaging upper ends of said levers and adapted to urge said levers apart during braking.

2. A brake system according to claim 1 further comprising an adjuster of variable length engaged between said actuating levers.

3. A brake system according to claim 2 further comprising a parking brake lever pivotally attached to one of said actuating levers and engaging said adjuster such that pivotal motion of said parking brake lever applies a separating force to said adjuster and to said one of said actuating levers.

4. A brake system according to claim 1 further comprising first and second pins, each of said pins connecting a respective one of said first and second levers to a respective one of said first and second brake shoes.

Sub a2
5. A brake system comprising first and second actuating levers for actuating respective brake shoes, a link extending between respective ends of said levers, and a parking brake lever pivotally attached to one of said actuating levers at a pivotal connection and also engaging one end of said link such that pivotal movement of said parking brake lever applies a force to said one of said actuating levers through said pivot connection and to the other of said actuating levers through said link.

6. A brake system according to claim 5 wherein the length of said link is adjustable.

7. A dual leading-shoe drum brake system comprising:

a backing plate;

an upper anchor secured to an upper part of said backing plate;

a lower anchor secured to a lower part of said backing plate;

first and second substantially identical actuating levers arranged symmetrically with respect to a line between said upper and lower anchors and engaging said lower anchor;

first and second substantially identical brake shoes, each of said brake shoes being located adjacent a respective one of said actuating levers and adapted to be activated by said lever; wherein said brake shoes selectively engage said upper and lower anchors to transfer braking forces during braking; and

an actuating cylinder engaging upper ends of said actuating levers to urge said levers apart and initiate said braking.

8. A system according to claim 7 further comprising an adjustment link extending between said first and second actuating levers.

9. A system according to claim 8 further comprising a parking brake lever pivotally attached to one of said actuating levers and engaging said adjustment link.

10. A system according to claim 7 wherein each of said brake shoes is connected to said respective one of said actuating levers.